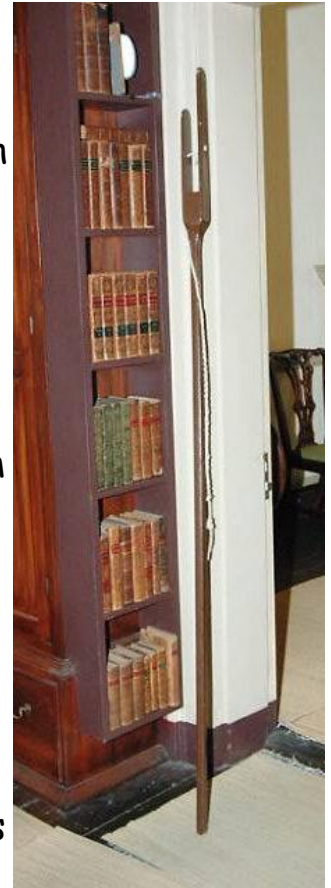


## Background Dossier One

### Ben Franklin, Inventor

Here are some of Mr. Franklin's inventions:

- One of the first electric batteries using alternating layers of lead and glass
- Experimented with the electrostatic machine which was an early version of an electric generator
- Odometer to measure approximate mileage (this was attached to the axle of a wagon wheel)
- Attached a fan to a rocking chair and a butter churner to another
- First school chair with an attached desk for an arm
- Bifocals so he could see near and far without two pairs of glasses
- Mechanical extending long arm for reaching books on top shelves (the Long Arm)
- Library chair with fold down steps for climbing
- Swim fins for the hands to move more quickly through the water—He invented these when he was just 11 years old!
- Franklin Stove- which made the fireplace more efficient
- Lightning rod
- Four-sided music stand, so that four musicians could play at once
- Glass armonica
- 4 paned whale oil street lamps
- Hatches on roofs to allow access during a building fire



Franklin could have become rich from his inventions, but he did not. The state assembly of Pennsylvania offered him a patent for the Franklin Stove, but he refused it. He wanted his inventions to be used and to benefit everyone. Why do you think he felt this way?